

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) An umbrella frame as claimed in claim-2 4, wherein the rotatable element is in permanent drive connection with the upper shaft for the tilt action.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An umbrella frame as claimed in claim-2~~ comprising:
a shaft having an upper portion and a lower portion, the upper portion being
connected to the lower portion in such a way that the upper portion can tilt with
respect to the lower portion; a runner mounted on the lower shaft portion so as to
slide up and down to open and close the umbrella; and mechanical linking means,
including a lower component associated with the runner, an upper component
associated with the upper shaft portion, linking the runner to the upper portion of the
shaft when the runner is in its upper location, and a rotating element rotatably
mounted on the lower shaft portion and carrying the lower component which can be
engaged by the runner as it is slid up the shaft so that when the runner is then
rotated about the lower portion of the shaft the rotating element is rotated with it,
tilting the upper portion, wherein the rotating element (34) engages with the runner

when the runner (12) is slid up the shaft to unfurl a cover attached to the umbrella frame, so that subsequent rotation of the runner rotates the rotating element and thus tilts the umbrella cover.

5. (Currently Amended) An umbrella frame as claimed in claim 4, wherein the rotating element (34) engages with the runner with corresponding lugs (40) and tabs (24), or by use of a cam.

6. (Currently Amended) An umbrella frame as claimed in claim 4, wherein the upper component of the mechanical linking means comprises: a gear element (28), having one or more teeth (30), associated with the upper portion (14) of the shaft; and a pivot block (26) at the top of the lower portion (10) for receiving the upper portion of the shaft in a tiltable manner; and the lower component (28) of the linking means comprises a substantially helical thread engaging the teeth on the gear element, so that when the runner is turned about the axis of the lower shaft portion (11), the teeth in the gear-element cause the upper portion of the shaft to be tilted.

7. (Currently Amended) An umbrella frame ~~as claimed in claim 2~~ comprising:
a shaft having an upper portion and a lower portion, the upper portion being
connected to the lower portion in such a way that the upper portion can tilt with
respect to the lower portion; a runner mounted on the lower shaft portion so as to
slide up and down to open and close the umbrella; and mechanical linking means,
including a lower component associated with the runner, an upper component
associated with the upper shaft portion, linking the runner to the upper portion of the

shaft when the runner is in its upper location, and a rotating element rotatably mounted on the lower shaft portion and carrying the lower component which can be engaged by the runner as it is slid up the shaft so that when the runner is then rotating about the lower portion of the shaft the rotatable element is rotated with it, tilting the upper portion, wherein the upper component of the mechanical linking means comprises: a gear element, having one or more teeth, associated with the upper portion of the shaft; and a pivot block at the top of the lower portion for receiving the upper portion of the shaft in a tiltable manner; and the lower component of the linking means comprises a substantially helical thread engaging the teeth on the gear element, so that when the runner is turned about the axis of the lower shaft portion, the teeth in the gear-element cause the upper portion of the shaft to be tilted, and wherein the rotating element (34) is tubular, having the substantially helical thread on its inside surface, and is located so that in the assembled state of the umbrella at least part of the pivot block (26) is disposed inside the rotating element permanently, and wherein the gear element is received in the pivot block in such a way that at least one of the one or more teeth protrudes outside the pivot block and engages with the substantially helical thread.

8. (Currently Amended) An umbrella frame according to claim-2 4, wherein the rotating element is a worm, located inside the pivot block.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An umbrella frame according to claim-1~~ An umbrella frame comprising: a shaft having an upper portion and a lower portion, the upper portion being connected to the lower portion in such a way that the upper portion can tilt with respect to the lower portion; a runner mounted on the lower shaft portion so as to slide up and

down to open and close the umbrella; and mechanical linking means, including a lower component associated with the runner, an upper component associated with the upper shaft portion, linking the runner to the upper portion of the shaft when the runner is in its upper location, in such a way as to cause the upper portion of the shaft to tilt when the runner is rotated, in which the runner includes a notch ring (22) mounted rotatably about the runner axis.

10. (Currently Amended) A runner for use on an umbrella shaft comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, the runner including a runner body (16) and a notch ring (22) to which the inner ends of the stretchers of the umbrella are to be attached, wherein the notch ring is disposed on the runner body and can rotate about the runner an axis of the lower shaft portion so as to allow the runner body to be rotated with respect to the umbrella shaft; and

tilting means comprising mechanical linking means (28, 36) for linking the runner to the upper ~~part~~ portion of the shaft so that rotational motion of the runner with respect to the shaft causes the upper portion of the shaft to tilt with respect to the lower portion.

11. (Original) A runner according to claim 10, further, including a bearing part on the runner which can be radially compressed to allow the notch ring to be assembled.